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THE ARRIVAL #1

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IDENTIFICATION: AllSpark
AFFILIATION: Unknown
FUNCTION: Life Source
LAST KNOWN LOCATION: Classified

"HERE'S WHAT WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO PIECE TOGETHER SO FAR...

"...APPROXIMATELY 24 MEGACYCLES AGO, WE RECEIVED THIS TRANSMISSION FROM OPTIMUS PRIME AND HIS SPACE BRIDGE REPAIR CREW, SOMEWHERE WITHIN THE AZAZEL ASTEROID BELT.

"I DON'T BELIEVE I NEED TO BRIEF ANYONE HERE ON THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THEIR CARGO.

IDENTIFICATION: Optimus Prime
AFFILIATION: Autobot
FUNCTION: Space Bridge Repair Crew Commander
TRAINING: Autobot Academy *

* completed training; did not graduate

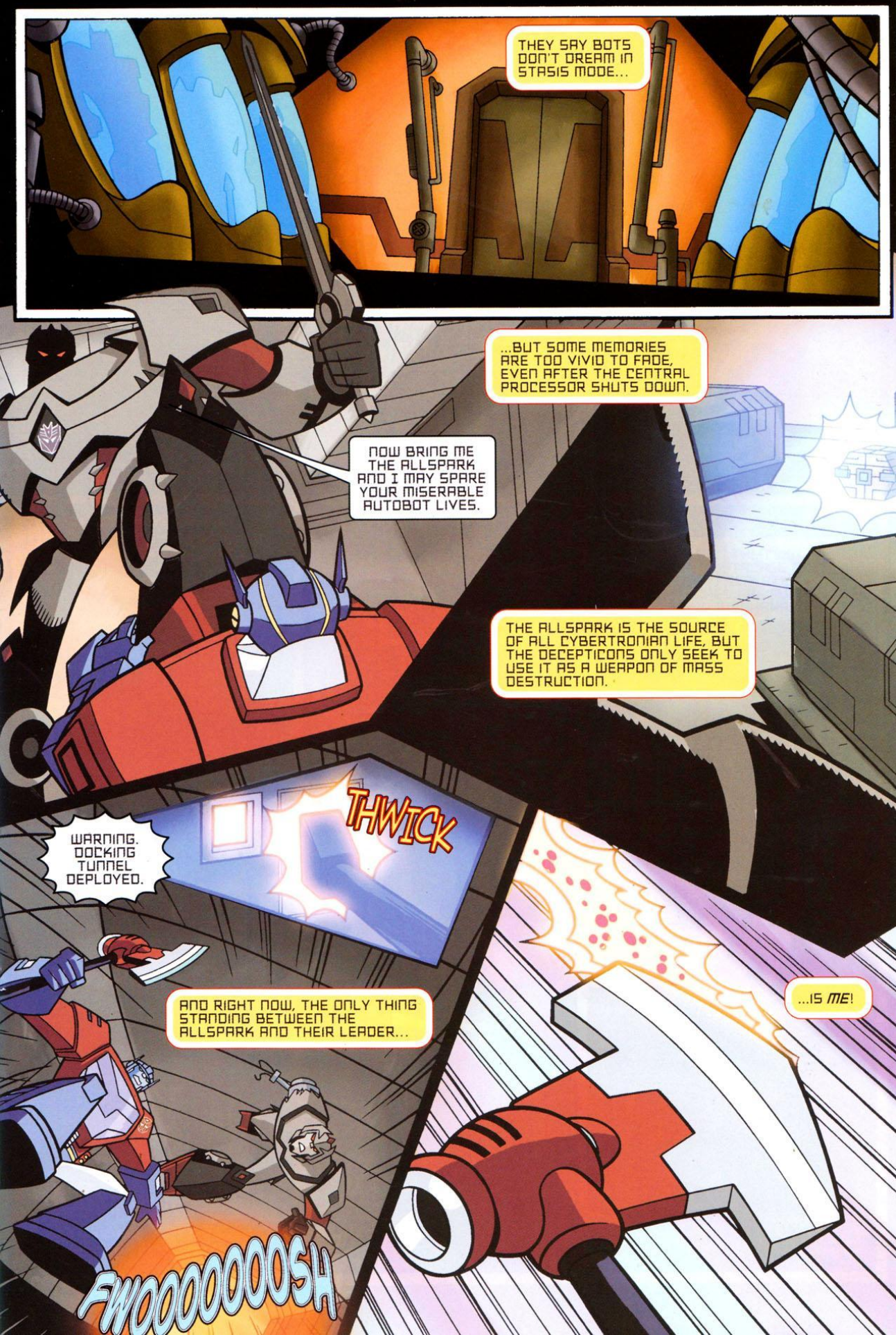
"NOT LONG AFTER, WE BEGAN TRACKING A SIGNAL FROM A DECEPTICON WARSHIP.

"THIS DECEPTICON WARSHIP.

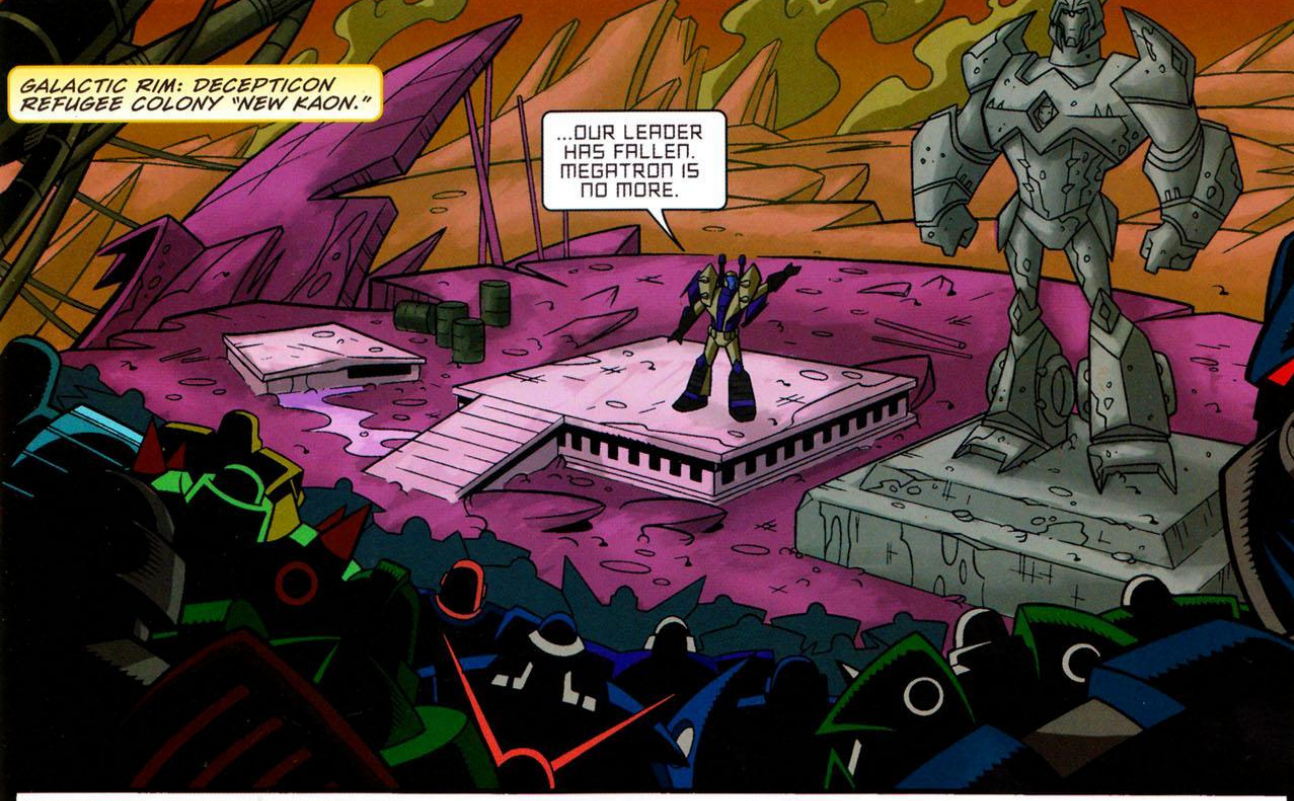
"I DON'T BELIEVE I NEED TO BRIEF ANYONE HERE ON THE SIGNIFICANCE OF ITS COMMANDER..."

IDENTIFICATION: Megatron
AFFILIATION: Decepticon
FUNCTION: Decepticon Leader
STATUS: Exiled
THREAT LEVEL: ***EXTREMELY DANGEROUS***

CYBERTRON COMMAND.
...WITHIN MERE CYCLES OF RECEIVING THIS TRANSMISSION, WE LOST ALL CONTACT WITH OPTIMUS PRIME'S SHIP, AND THE DECEPTICON SIGNAL FELL OFF OUR SCANNERS.
ULTRA MAGNUS: SUPREME COMMANDER, AUTOBOT ELITE GUARD.
THUS FAR, SEARCH AND RESCUE CREWS HAVE FAILED TO TURN UP ANY SIGN OF OPTIMUS PRIME AND HIS CREW.
EARTH: NORTH AMERICAN CONTINENT, LAKE ERIE.
"AT THIS POINT WE CAN ONLY ASSUME THE WORST..."


THEY SAY BOTS DON'T DREAM IN STASIS MODE...
...BUT SOME MEMORIES ARE TOO VIVID TO FADE, EVEN AFTER THE CENTRAL PROCESSOR SHUTS DOWN.
NOW BRING ME THE ALLSPARK AND I MAY SPARE YOUR MISERABLE AUTOBOT LIVES.
THE ALLSPARK IS THE SOURCE OF ALL CYBERTRONIAN LIFE, BUT THE DECEPTICONS ONLY SEEK TO USE IT AS A WEAPON OF MASS DESTRUCTION.
THWICK
WARNING. DOCKING TUNNEL DEPLOYED.
AND RIGHT NOW, THE ONLY THING STANDING BETWEEN THE ALLSPARK AND THEIR LEADER...
...IS ME!
FWOOOOOOOSH

AAAAARRRRGHHH!
"IT IS WITH HEAVY SPARKS THAT WE WHO PROUDLY DISPLAY THE DECEPTICON SYMBOL MUST LEARN TO ACCEPT THE INEVITABLE CONCLUSION, HOWEVER UNPLEASANT..."

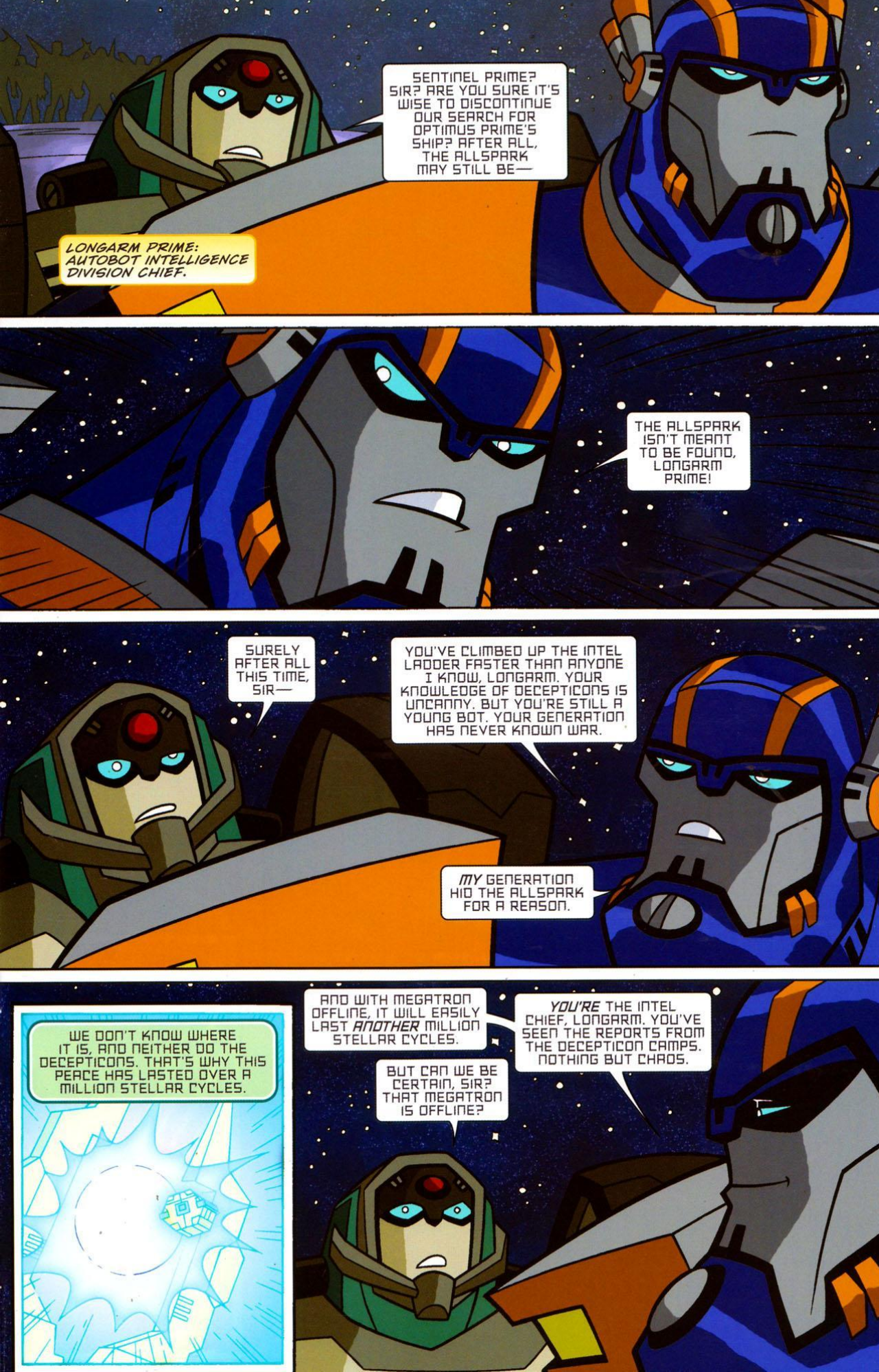

GALACTIC RIM: DECEPTICON REFUGEE COLONY "NEW KAON."
...OUR LEADER HAS FALLEN. MEGATRON IS NO MORE.

BLITZWING: DECEPTICON TRIPLE CHANGER.
REST ASSURED, HE WILL NOT BE FORGOTTEN.

BUT FIRST WE WILL *CRUSH* THE MISERABLE AUTOBOT SCUM RESPONSIBLE FOR DESTROYING HIM!
FWIZZ

OOOH! AND THEN WE'LL PAINT MUSTACHES ON THEIR FACEPLATES! MUSTACHES ARE FUNNY! HAHAHAHAHAHA!
FWIZZ
I HATE FUNERALS...

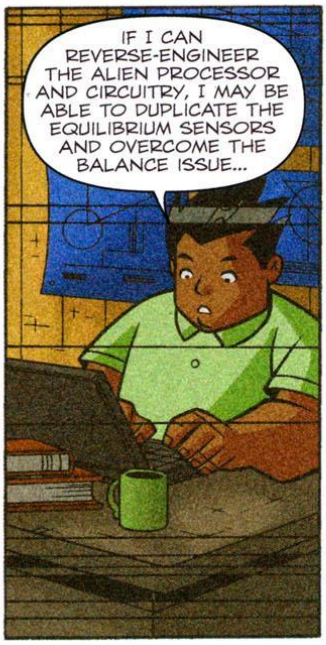
CYBERTRON: IACON CITY, AUTOBOT MEMORIAL PLAZA.
...THE ONLY THING I HATE MORE THAN FUNERALS... IS SPEAKING AT FUNERALS.
I'VE BEEN ASKED TO SAY A FEW WORDS ABOUT OUR FALLEN COLLEAGUE, OPTIMUS PRIME.
AS MANY OF YOU KNOW, OPTIMUS AND I HAVE A HISTORY...
"YOU KNEW HIM BEST, SENTINEL. WHY DON'T YOU GIVE THE EULOGY?" THANKS A LOT, MAGNUS.
...BUT THIS IS NOT THE TIME TO DRAG OUT PAST GRIEVANCES.
IT WILL BE AFTER I POUND BACK A FEW BARRELS AT MACCADAM'S OIL HOUSE.
SENTINEL PRIME: SECOND-IN-COMMAND, AUTOBOT ELITE GUARD.
OPTIMUS AND HIS CREW WENT DOWN IN THE LINE OF DUTY.
GARBAGE DUTY.
AND WHILE I NEVER GOT THE CHANCE TO KNOW THEM PERSONALLY...
THANK THE ALLSPARK FOR SMALL MIRACLES.
...THEY WILL ALL BE REMEMBERED.
AS LOSERS.
FOR EVERY AUTOBOT, NO MATTER HOW LOWLY HIS FUNCTION...
AND FACE IT, YOU CAN'T GET MORE "LOWLY" THAN SPACE BRIDGE REPAIR.
...IS A UNIQUE COG IN THE GREAT AUTOBOT MACHINE.
SLAG... NOW I SOUND JUST LIKE OPTIMUS.

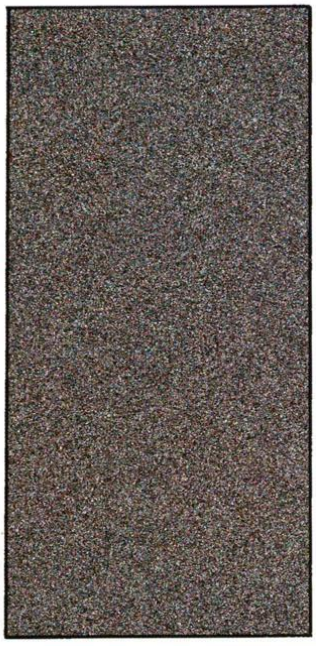

SENTINEL PRIME? SIR? ARE YOU SURE IT'S WISE TO DISCONTINUE OUR SEARCH FOR OPTIMUS PRIME'S SHIP? AFTER ALL, THE ALLSPARK MAY STILL BE—
LONGARM PRIME: AUTOBOT INTELLIGENCE DIVISION CHIEF.
THE ALLSPARK ISN'T MEANT TO BE FOUND, LONGARM PRIME!
SURELY AFTER ALL THIS TIME, SIR—
YOU'VE CLIMBED UP THE INTEL LADDER FASTER THAN ANYONE I KNOW, LONGARM. YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF DECEPTICONS IS UNCANNY. BUT YOU'RE STILL A YOUNG BOT. YOUR GENERATION HAS NEVER KNOWN WAR.
MY GENERATION HID THE ALLSPARK FOR A REASON.
WE DON'T KNOW WHERE IT IS, AND NEITHER DO THE DECEPTICONS. THAT'S WHY THIS PEACE HAS LASTED OVER A MILLION STELLAR CYCLES.
AND WITH MEGATRON OFFLINE, IT WILL EASILY LAST ANOTHER MILLION STELLAR CYCLES.
BUT CAN WE BE CERTAIN, SIR? THAT MEGATRON IS OFFLINE?
YOU'RE THE INTEL CHIEF, LONGARM. YOU'VE SEEN THE REPORTS FROM THE DECEPTICON CAMPS. NOTHING BUT CHAOS.

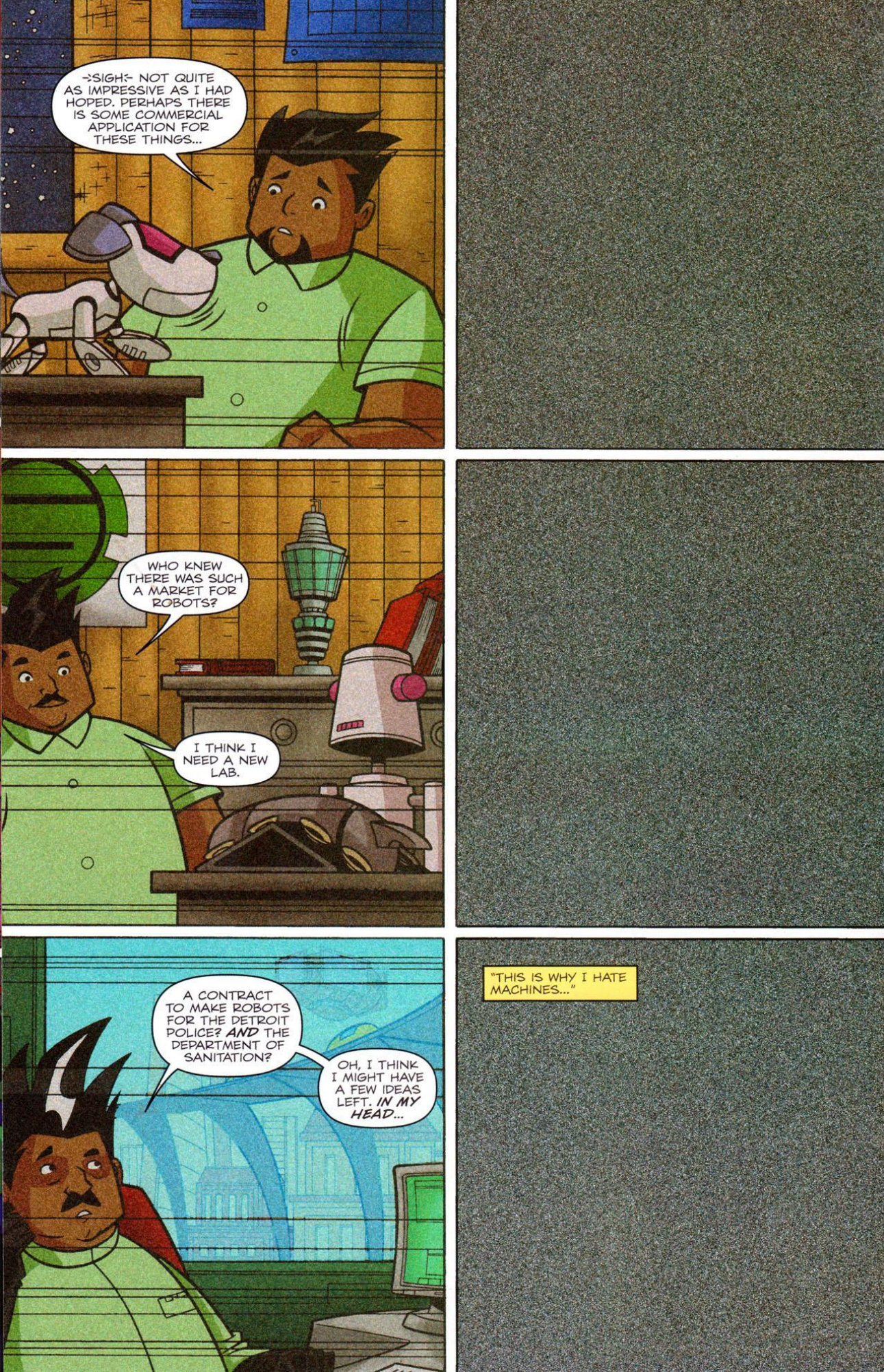
"THE KIND OF CHAOS THAT COMES FROM A VOID IN LEADERSHIP..."
INFIDEL! THIS IS AN OUTRAGE, BLITZWING! MEGATRON LIVES! MEGATRON WILL RETURN!
LUGNUT: DECEPTICON DEMOLITIONS SPECIALIST.
YOU CANNOT IGNORE THE OVERWHELMING EVIDENCE TO THE CONTRARY, LUGNUT.
THAT WOULD JUST BE CRAZY! AHAHAHAHA!
FWIZZ
DEMOLITION TO TRAITORS!
THROOOOSH
I SPENT SIX DECA-CYCLES CARVING THAT! NOW I AM GOING TO CARVE YOU!
FOOL! I KNOW IT IN MY SPARK...

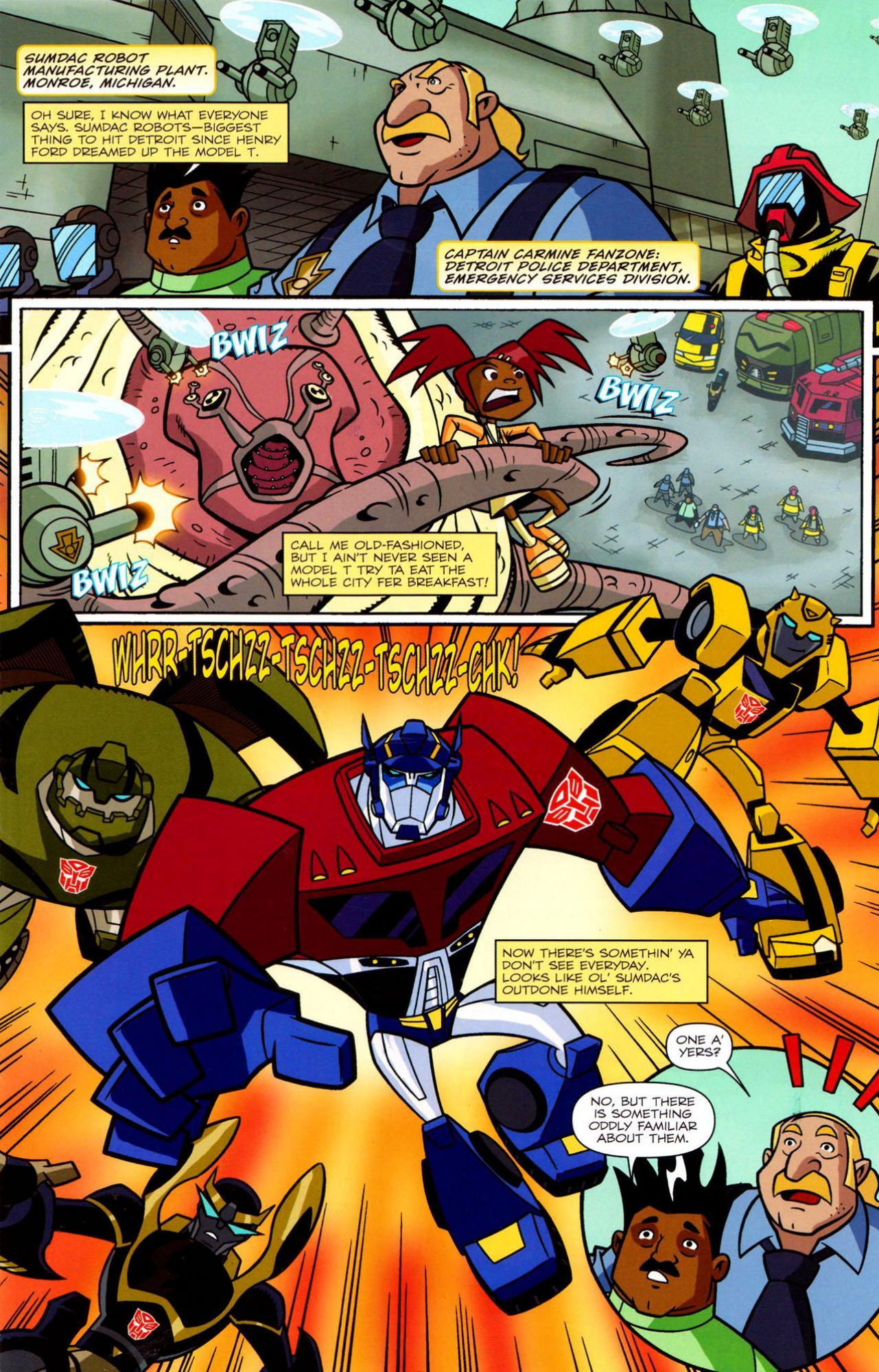
"...MEGATRON IS STILL ONLINE!"

PAW PAW, MICHIGAN. SUMDAC FARM.



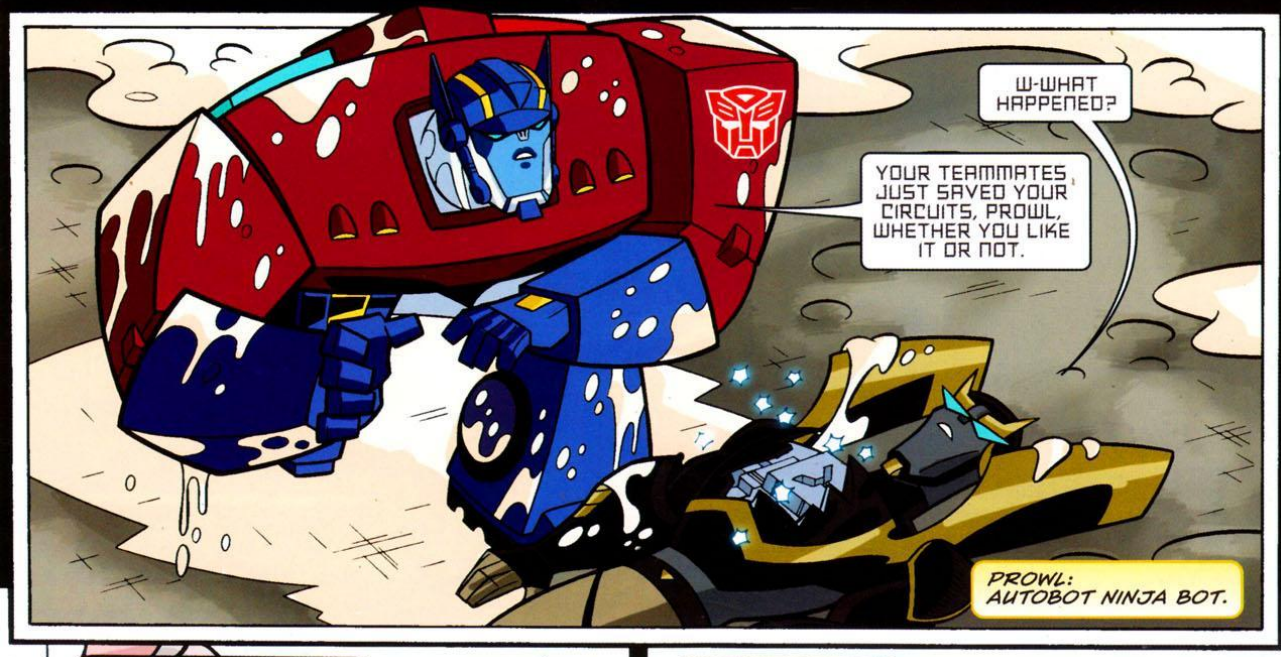


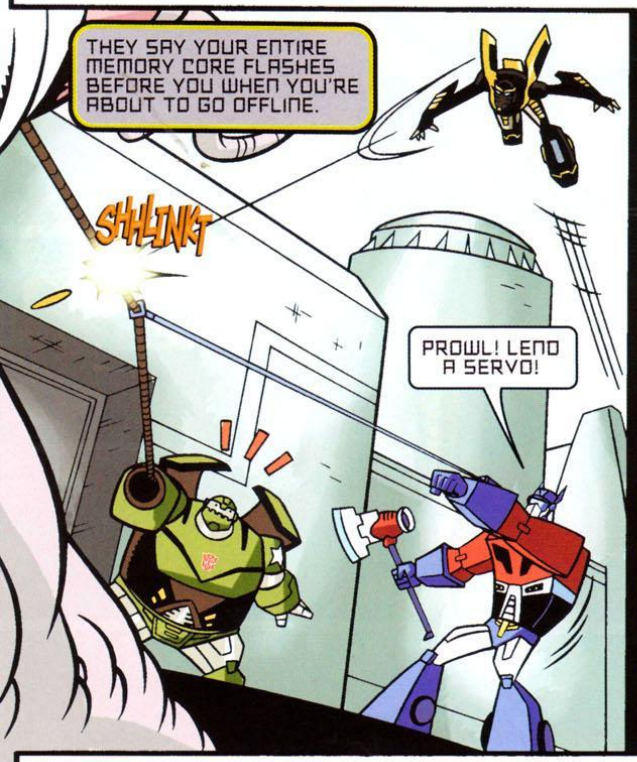

-:SIGH:- NOT QUITE AS IMPRESSIVE AS I HAD HOPED. PERHAPS THERE IS SOME COMMERCIAL APPLICATION FOR THESE THINGS...
WHO KNEW THERE WAS SUCH A MARKET FOR ROBOTS?
I THINK I NEED A NEW LAB.
A CONTRACT TO MAKE ROBOTS FOR THE DETROIT POLICE? AND THE DEPARTMENT OF SANITATION?
OH, I THINK I MIGHT HAVE A FEW IDEAS LEFT. IN MY HEAD...
"THIS IS WHY I HATE MACHINES..."


SUMDAC ROBOT MANUFACTURING PLANT. MONROE, MICHIGAN.
OH SURE, I KNOW WHAT EVERYONE SAYS. SUMDAC ROBOTS—BIGGEST THING TO HIT DETROIT SINCE HENRY FORD DREAMED UP THE MODEL T.
CAPTAIN CARMINE FANZONE: DETROIT POLICE DEPARTMENT, EMERGENCY SERVICES DIVISION.
BWIZ
BWIZ
BWIZ
CALL ME OLD-FASHIONED, BUT I AIN'T NEVER SEEN A MODEL T TRY TA EAT THE WHOLE CITY FER BREAKFAST!
WHRR-TSCHZZ-TSCHZZ-TSCHZZ-CHK!
NOW THERE'S SOMETHIN' YA DON'T SEE EVERYDAY. LOOKS LIKE OL' SUMDAC'S OUTDONE HIMSELF.
ONE A' YERS?
NO, BUT THERE IS SOMETHING ODDLY FAMILIAR ABOUT THEM.

OKAY, THIS IS COOLER THAN ANYTHING MY DAD EVER BUILT.
SARI SUMDAC: KID.
WHY DON'T YOU PICK ON SOMEONE YOUR OWN SIZE?!
WAAAAAY COOLER...
ALL RIGHT. REINFORCEMENTS.
HEY, DID ANY OF YOU GUYS LOSE THIS?
COOLER, BUT CLUELESS.

BOY, THE BOTS AREN'T VERY FRIENDLY ON THIS PLANET, ARE THEY?
HELLO?! WHAT AM I? CHOPPED RIVETS? WHAT'S WITH THE ATTITUDE HERE?!
UH, BUMBLEBEE? I DON'T KNOW WHERE YOU COME FROM, BUT ON MY PLANET, CARS DON'T REALLY HAVE ATTITUDES.
BUMBLEBEE: AUTOBOT SPACE BRIDGE REPAIR BOT, 2ND CLASS.
BWIZ
BWIZ
BWIZ
BWIZ
OH, YEAH?! WHADAYA CALL THAT?!
PESKY LITTLE BUZZ-BOTS...
...BUT IT LOOKS LIKE I'VE GOT BIGGER CIRCUITS TO FRY...
...MUCH BIGGER CIRCUITS TO FRY.
YOU'RE GOIN' DOOOOOWN!
R-R-R-RRRRRRUUUMMMMMBLLLLLLE!


W-WHAT HAPPENED?
YOUR TEAMMATES JUST SAVED YOUR CIRCUITS, PROWL, WHETHER YOU LIKE IT OR NOT.
PROWL: AUTOBOT NINJA BOT.


THEY SAY YOUR ENTIRE MEMORY CORE FLASHES BEFORE YOU WHEN YOU'RE ABOUT TO GO OFFLINE.
SHHLINK!
PROWL! LEND A SERVO!

FOR SOME REASON I'M ONLY FLASHING ON THE REGRETS.
I SUPPOSE I MIGHT TRY TO ACT DIFFERENTLY IF I HAD IT TO DO ALL OVER AGAIN.
WHRRRR-SHVIN
HE SAID "LEND" A SERVO, NOT "SLICE" A SERVO!
BETTER THAT THAN FEEDING THE REST OF YOU TO THAT THING.

AND IT APPEARS I MIGHT JUST GET THAT CHANCE...

RATCHET: AUTOBOT MEDI-BOT.
I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT... PURE ALLSPARK ENERGY CONCENTRATED IN A SINGLE ELECTRONIC KEY...
I STILL DON'T SEE WHY YOU WON'T LET ME USE IT TO FIX YOUR SHIP.
YOU'RE NOT "FIXING" ANYTHING UNTIL I FIGURE OUT HOW THIS KEY WORKS!
ALTHOUGH WHY THE ALLSPARK WOULD CHOOSE TO GIVE IT TO THIS TINY ORGANIC STOWAWAY IS ANYBOT'S GUESS...
...SHE DID GET PROWL UP AND RUNNING AGAIN, SO I GUESS SHE'S NOT ENTIRELY USELESS.
WISH I COULD SAY THE SAME FOR OUR SHIP. CAN'T EVEN GET A SIGNAL OUT TO CYBERTRON WITH TELETRAN-I.
'COURSE ALL THAT MOISTURE DOWN THERE IS MASKING THE ALLSPARK'S ENERGY SIGNAL FROM THE 'CONS. NOT A BAD HIDING PLACE REALLY.
EITHER WAY, IT LOOKS LIKE WE'RE STICKING AROUND FOR A WHILE.
SO... CAN WE KEEP 'EM?

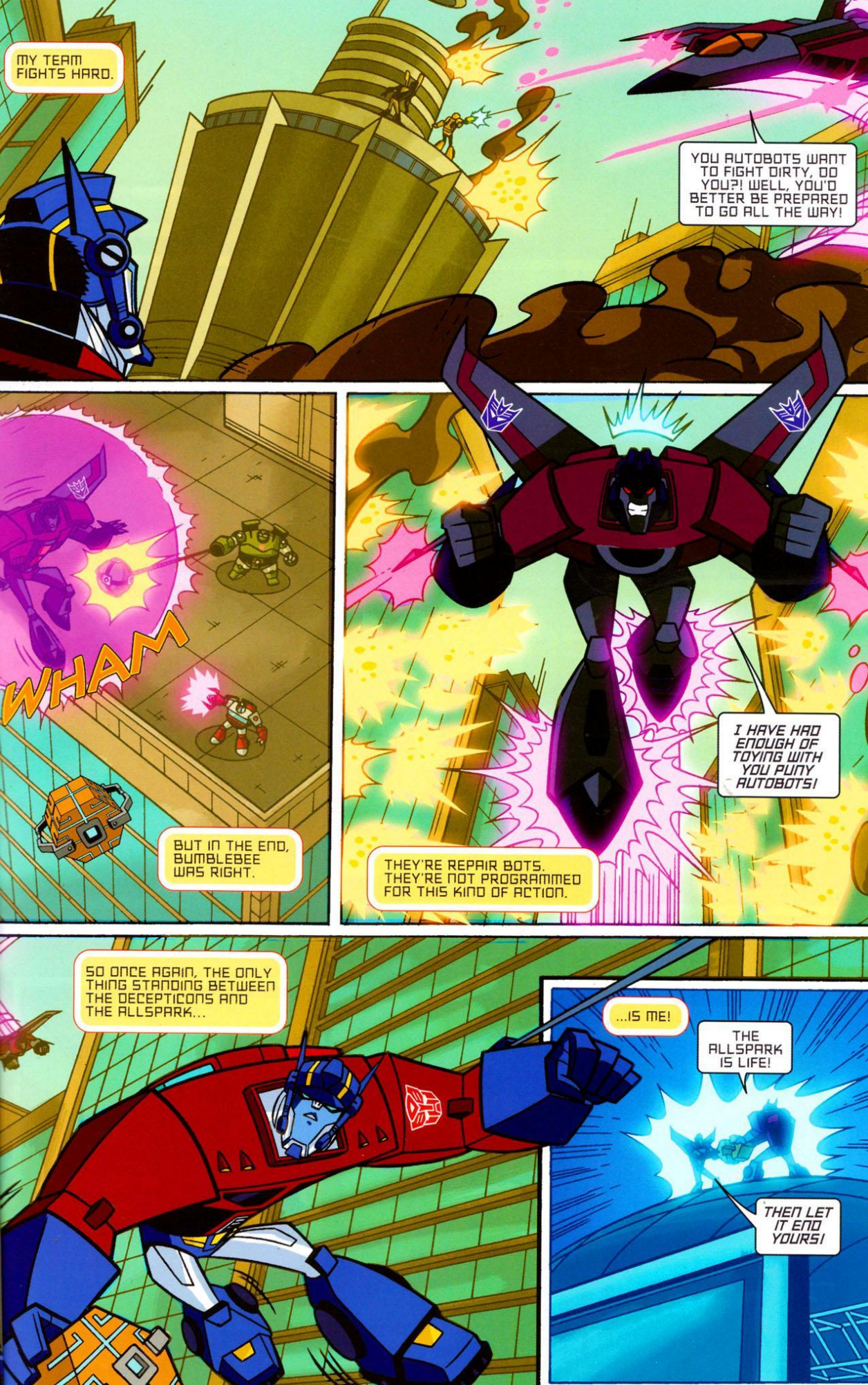
WE'RE LIVE ON THE SCENE DOWNTOWN...
...WHERE THE AUTOBOTS ONCE AGAIN ARE EARNING THEIR TITLE AS "DETROIT'S NEWEST SUPERHEROES."
ENJOY IT WHILE YOU CAN, "HEROES." YOU'RE ABOUT TO TAKE A FALL!
FIFTY STELLAR CYCLES OF SEARCHING... BUT ONCE I FIND THE ALLSPARK, THE DECEPTICONS WILL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO FOLLOW MY LEADERSHIP.
STARSCREAM: DECEPTICON SECOND-IN-COMMAND— WHETHER HE LIKES IT OR NOT!
ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF OUR CURRENT VOID IN LEADERSHIP.
BWEEP BWEEP BWEEP
BWEEP BWEEP BWEEP BWEEP BWEEP BWEEP
BA-DOOM!
IT DOES MY SPARK JOY JUST THINKING ABOUT IT.
BWAAAP! BWAAAP! BWAAAP! BWAAAP!
INTRUDER ALERT! INTRUDER ALERT!
FUNNY. I WASN'T EXPECTING COMPANY...

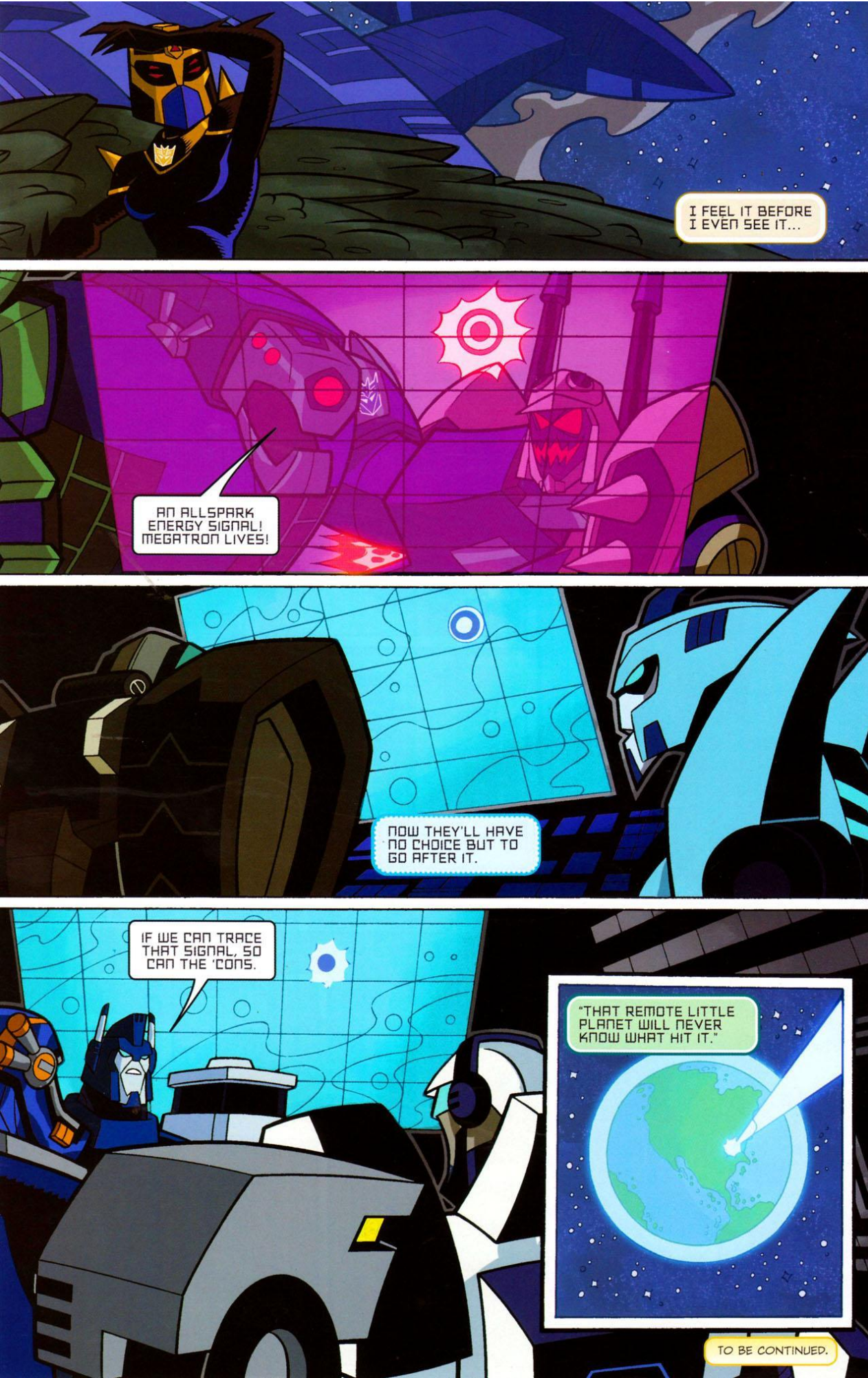
OF ALL THE DECEPTICONS ON ALL THE SHIPS IN ALL THE GALAXIES, I JUST HAPPEN TO STUMBLE ON *HIM*.
COINCIDENCE? I DON'T THINK SO. I'D SAY WE'RE BOTH AFTER THE EXACT SAME THING.
ALTHOUGH SOMETHING TELLS ME STARSCREAM ISN'T PLANNING TO USE THE ALLSPARK TO ELIMINATE AN ORGANIC MODE.
BLACKARACHNIA: DECEPTICON SCIENCE OFFICER AND "TECHNO-ORGANIC FREAK."
"COME INTO MY PARLOR," SAID THE FLYBOT TO THE SPIDER.
ZAK
OOOF!
SLAM
I BELIEVE IT GOES THE OTHER WAY AROUND.
BUT, LET'S NOT MINCE WORDS, STARSCREAM. I KNOW YOU'RE AFTER THE ALLSPARK, SAME AS ME. WHAT SAY WE WORK TOGETHER?
SPLORT
SPWOOSH
HMM... LET ME THINK ABOUT THAT FOR A NANO-KLIK.
OKAY, TELL YOU WHAT...
"...LET'S *NOT*!"

ABOUT WHAT I'D EXPECT FROM THE EGOTISTICAL, LYING, TWO-FACED COWARD.
WONDER IF HE EXPECTED THAT TRACKING DEVICE I PLANTED ON HIM...
WARNING. PLANETARY IMPACT IMMINENT.
BWAAAP! BWAAAP! BWAAAP! BWAAAP
PLANET? WHAT PLANET?
"OH. THAT PLANET..."
BA-DOOOOOOM!

I WANT TO THANK THE MAYOR, POLICE CAPTAIN FANZONE, AND ESPECIALLY THE CITY'S CYBERNETIC HEROES FOR ATTENDING THIS MAGNIFICENT GRAND OPENING CEREMONY.
I DON'T GET IT. BACK HOME ON CYBERTRON, WE WERE NOBODIES. HERE, WE'RE TREATED LIKE THE ELITE GUARD OR SOMETHING...
BULKHEAD: AUTOBOT SPACE BRIDGE REPAIR BOT, 1ST CLASS.
A BOT COULD GET USED TO THIS PLANET.
SARI EVEN SET US UP WITH A COOL HOME BASE IN THIS OLD, ABANDONED FACTORY.
AND SHE'S INTRODUCED ME TO SOME HUMAN CULTURE. I LIKE IT.
I DON'T GET IT, BUT I LIKE IT.
AND NOW, IF YOU WILL KINDLY DIRECT YOUR ATTENTION OVERHEAD, PLEASE ENJOY THE AERIAL ACROBATICS OF THE CRIMSON ANGELS.
IN FACT, IT'S JUST ABOUT PERFECT FOR US HERE. YEP, I DON'T THINK ANYTHING COULD SPOIL IT.
GREETINGS, AUTOBOTS! MIND IF I CRASH THE PARTY?
ANYTHING BUT *THAT*!

YOU CALL YOURSELVES HEROES?! YOU THINK YOU DEFEATED THE GREAT MEGATRON? YOU DID NO SUCH THING!
I DEFEATED MEGATRON! I PLANTED THE DEVICE THAT OVERLOADED HIS CIRCUITRY! HIS FATE WAS SEALED BEFORE HE EVEN REACHED YOUR SHIP!
THE AUTOBOTS GO DOWN EASILY. BUT I JUST CAN'T RESIST RUBBING IT IN THEIR FACEPLATES.
NOW BRING ME THE ALLSPARK, AUTOBOT SCUM!
MY NAME... IS OPTIMUS PRIME! AND I AM PREPARED TO SACRIFICE MY LIFE TO DEFEND THE ALLSPARK!
BUT ARE YOU WILLING TO SACRIFICE *THEIRS*?
ZAK ZAK
NOTHING LIKE A LITTLE SHOW OF FORCE TO GET SOME COOPERATION AROUND HERE. TO THINK THEY ACTUALLY CARE ABOUT THESE MISERABLE ORGANICS...
HE WOULDN'T...
WAIT!
LET'S NOT BE HASTY, SHALL WE?


MY TEAM FIGHTS HARD.
YOU AUTOBOTS WANT TO FIGHT DIRTY, DO YOU?! WELL, YOU'D BETTER BE PREPARED TO GO ALL THE WAY!
WHAM
BUT IN THE END, BUMBLEBEE WAS RIGHT.
I HAVE HAD ENOUGH OF TOYING WITH YOU PUNY AUTOBOTS!
THEY'RE REPAIR BOTS. THEY'RE NOT PROGRAMMED FOR THIS KIND OF ACTION.
SO ONCE AGAIN, THE ONLY THING STANDING BETWEEN THE DECEPTICONS AND THE ALLSPARK...
...IS ME!
THE ALLSPARK IS LIFE!
THEN LET IT END YOURS!


I FEEL IT BEFORE I EVEN SEE IT...
AN ALLSPARK ENERGY SIGNAL! MEGATRON LIVES!
NOW THEY'LL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO GO AFTER IT.
IF WE CAN TRACE THAT SIGNAL, SO CAN THE 'CONS.
"THAT REMOTE LITTLE PLANET WILL NEVER KNOW WHAT HIT IT."
TO BE CONTINUED.

TRANSFORMERS
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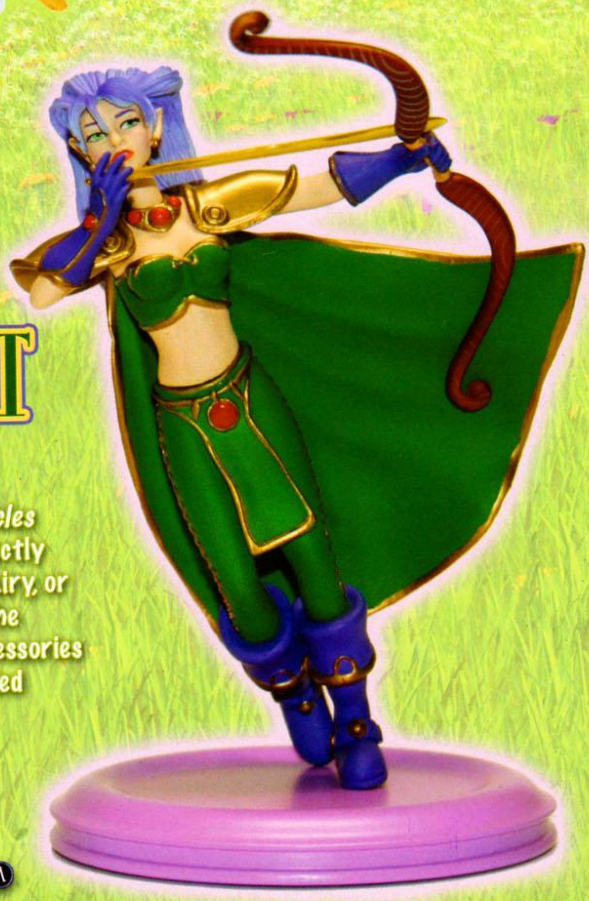
Next Month:
Issue #2

Magical Adventure Comes to Life!

The Dreamland Chronicles

the playful fairy Kiwi

the Princess of Elves Nastajia Ashenheart



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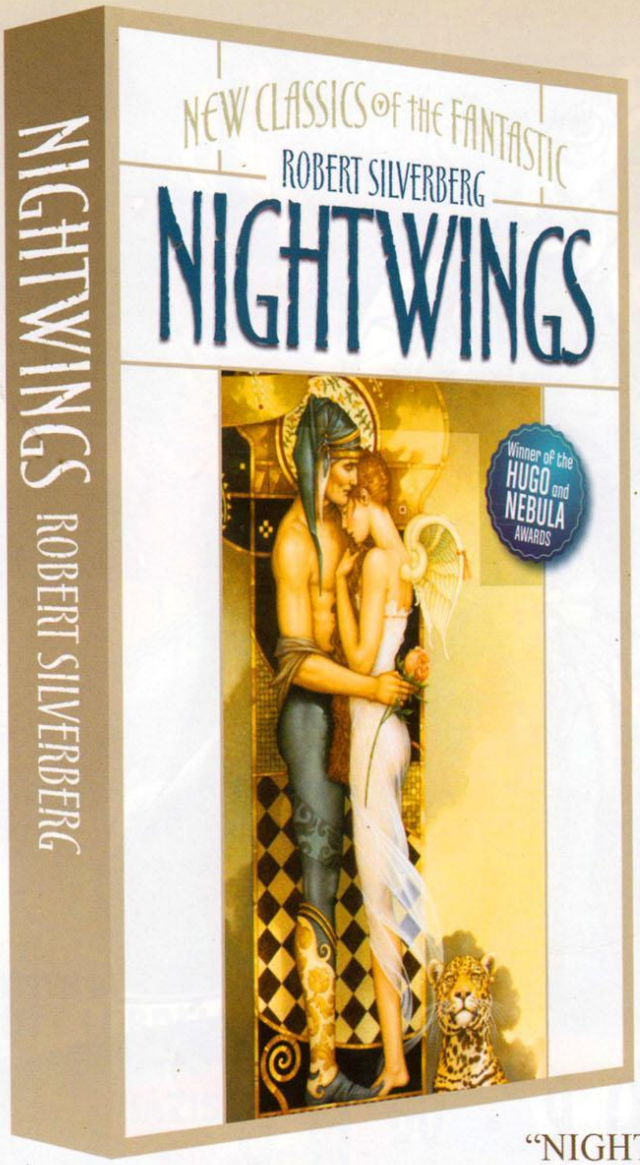

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—***George R.R. Martin***

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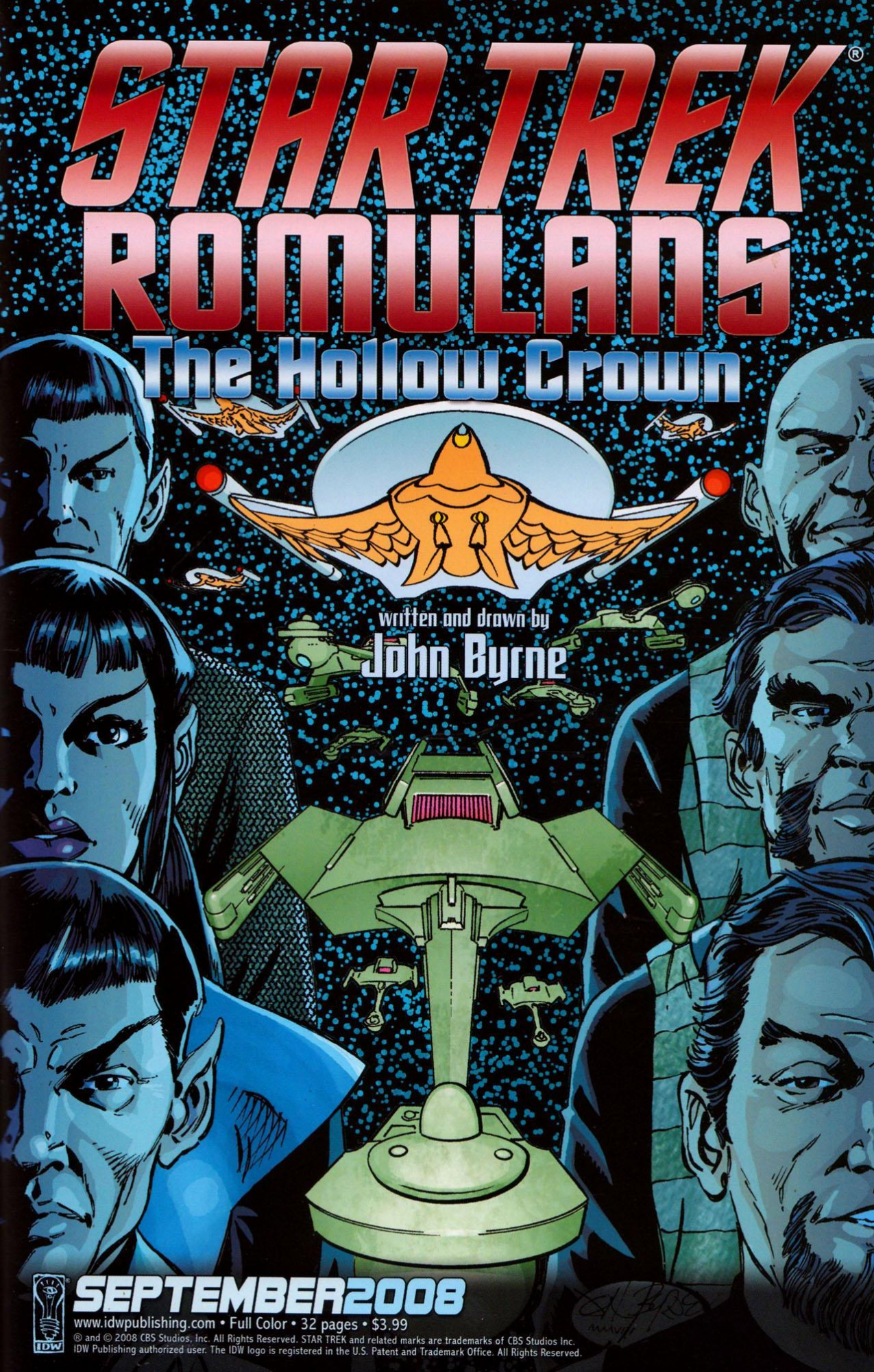
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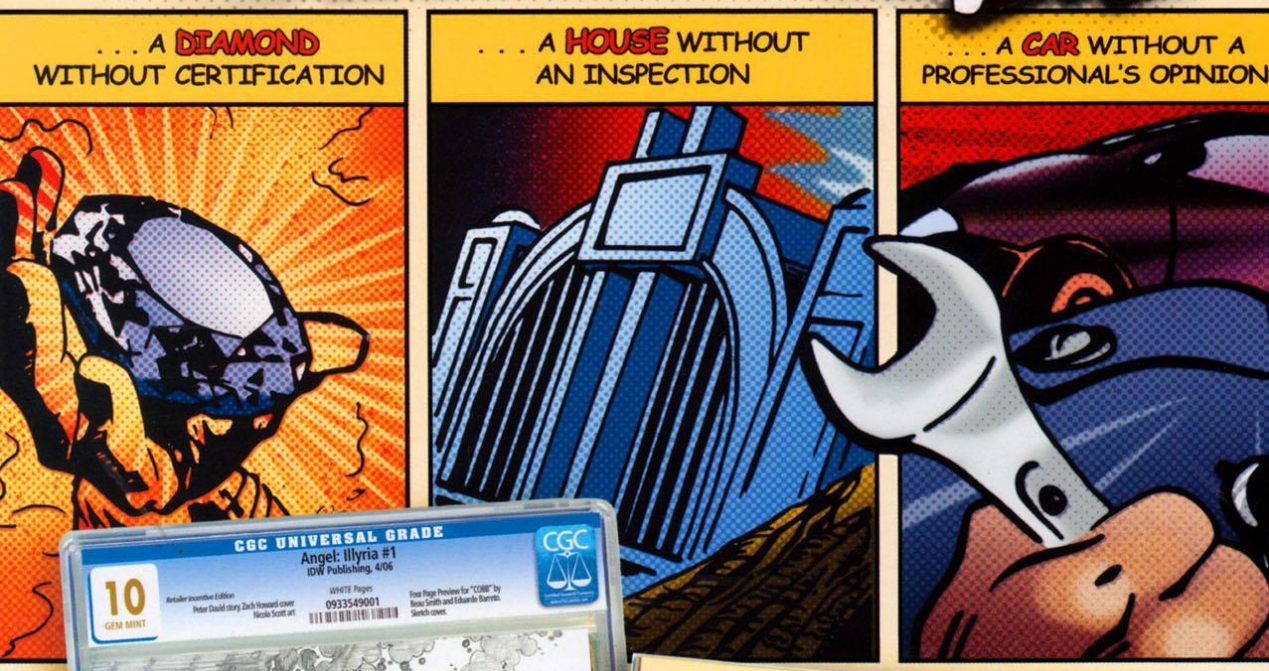

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